

REMARKS

The present application is subject to a restriction because the pending claims are directed to patentably distinct species. Applicant hereby provisionally elects to prosecute Claims 18-21 which are defined by the Examiner as species B2, but traverses the restriction requirement with respect to Claims 15-17.

As set forth in MPEP §803, restriction may be properly required if (1) the inventions are independent or distinct as claimed; and (2) there is a serious burden on the Examiner if restriction is not required. Applicant asserts that there will not be, nor has the Examiner shown, a serious burden. In the present application, the field of search and examination for each species will substantially overlap. If the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct inventions. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully asserts that this restriction is improper, and therefore requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this restriction. If the Examiner maintains the restriction, Applicant respectfully requests the requisite showing of a serious burden.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1230.

Respectfully submitted,

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